



STATE OF WISCONSIN
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CORRESPONDENCE MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 10, 2010

TO: Employee Trust Funds Board
Teachers Retirement Board
Wisconsin Retirement Board

FROM: Matt Stohr, Director
Office of Communications and Legislation

SUBJECT: Communications Update

This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.

This memorandum provides a brief update on the Department's communication efforts since the June Joint Informational meeting. I have not included a legislative report because the state legislature is not in session until January 2011.

Annuity Adjustments

The Department has continued to communicate with Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) members, especially retirees, about the likelihood of a negative Core Fund annuity adjustment in 2011, which would mark the third straight year there has been a negative Core Fund annuity adjustment. As you are aware, the Core Fund investment returns are spread out (smoothed) over a five year period; therefore, the effects of 2008 global economic crisis will be felt for years to come. The September edition of *Trust Fund News* included Core Fund effective rates and annuity adjustment projections based on different year-end investment scenarios. We will continue to provide Core Fund projections on the Department's Internet site throughout the year. The Department has also presented the Core Fund projections at meetings and conferences of organizations that represent WRS members.

Video Library

The Department has a video library on its Internet site. The video library includes over 40 informational videos that allow members to learn about WRS benefits from the comfort of their own home. The Department recently added two new and important mediasite videos to its online video library. The first video, *Administrative*

Reviewed and approved by Rhonda Dunn, Executive Assistant.

Rhonda Dunn 8-23-10
Signature Date

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Appeal Process, is designed to help members understand the administrative appeal process as it relates to the benefits administered by the Department. The topics covered in the video include how and when to file an appeal, the sequence of the hearing process, and concludes with information about the notification of a final decision. The second video, *New Employee Orientation-Retirement Benefits*, is designed to help employees who are new to the public sector workforce understand their WRS benefits, including disability benefits.

Newsletter

As you are aware, we announced the newsletter partnership with the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB) in the September edition of *Trust Fund News*. Both ETF and SWIB will have content in the newsletter beginning with the January 2011 edition of *Trust Fund News*.

Office Name

The Department's Office of Legislative Affairs, Communications and Quality Assurance changed its name to one that is shorter and easier to remember. The new name is the Office of Communications and Legislation. The office name change had no impact on the operations of the office.

I will be at the September Joint Informational meeting to answer any questions you may have.